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17 MR. JOHNSON: First of all, I'd like to say  
18 that I hope the DOE does a better job keeping nuclear  
19 waste in the canisters than it does keeping flies out  
20 of the meeting rooms.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 I don't think I have to tell you why I'm here  
23 today. I've been before this meeting six times now.  
24 It's not the same people each time. But I thought this  
25 time I'd take a little bit of time and let people know

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1 why I come to these meetings. Little bit of history.  
2 I'm an activist. I've been an activist all  
3 of my life, basically, but I realized it when I came to  
4 Las Vegas. But when I was a child, my grandfather and  
5 me were pretty close. When I was 10 years old, I spent  
6 the summer at his house. He'd come home from work --  
7 he worked at Oakridge Nuclear Facility in east  
8 Tennessee. And he explained what some of the jobs  
9 were. He got me interested in carpentry.  
10 I'm a fourth generation carpenter, union.  
11 And right now I'm a member of 1780 out here in  
12 Las Vegas. But that's not the reason that I come to

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13 these meetings. The reason is because my grandfather  
14 died when I was 12 years old. One year after he  
15 retired from Oakridge. And I had to go to the  
16 hospital, and I had to look at him after he had been  
17 rotted from the inside-out with cancer, because he  
18 worked at that facility.

19 My father worked at that facility at the  
20 time. He quit his job. And we were in hard times at  
21 that time. We ate beans a lot, but he found another  
22 job, and he went on with his life.

23 When I got out of the military, I served four  
24 years in the military, and I was on hard times. And I  
25 went to the carpenter's union and checked in. They had  
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1 a job, and it was out at the Y-12 plant out in  
2 Oakridge. So I took the job. And I worked that day  
3 and they put a little monitor on me; said, "Don't  
4 worry. If it glows, you just go home. Means you're  
5 saturated to the point where you can't work here any  
6 more."

7 So I called my mother that night and let her  
8 know that I'd gotten a job, because she was worried  
9 about me. Told her where it was. She started bawling

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10 on the phone, told me never go back in there. Go the  
11 next day and quit. That she didn't want me working at  
12 that plant. So I did. The next day I went in, took my  
13 tools, didn't tell nobody, and I just left.

14 My mother doesn't beg me too often to do  
15 things. That's why I'm a long-haired hippie, you can  
16 see. But I listened to her that time.

17 I moved out here in '89. And I became an  
18 activist in the union. And I've heard several times  
19 people say, it's coming. Nothing you can do.

20 I was on strike at the Frontier from 1992 to  
21 1998. Every day I heard somebody tell me, "Give up.  
22 You'll never win. Give up, it's all but over. You  
23 can't win this battle." We won, and we went back in  
24 February 1st, 1998, with a contract for five different  
25 unions.

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1 So I don't listen when they say you can't  
2 win. It's all but over. I don't listen. Because I'm  
3 an American, and I know what it means to be an  
4 American. You have to stand up and you have to keep  
5 fighting. If it means wearing a T-shirt out in public  
6 and getting rocks thrown at you because it's, they tell

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7 you, well, you don't work out at the test site, what do  
8 you know? I know I don't want to work at the test  
9 site.

10 Four years ago my father was diagnosed with  
11 cancer. Wonder why? Because he was working at  
12 Oakridge when I was a child. My mother begged me at  
13 that time to get involved. She'd heard about the  
14 project out here through word of mouth and through one  
15 of my brothers that lives in town. And so I got  
16 involved. She begged me to do whatever I could to stop  
17 that project, to keep other families from having to go  
18 through the hardship she did. And that's why I get  
19 involved.

20 Last year my father went into remission.  
21 Thank God. But how long it will last, I don't know. I  
22 went out and visited them, just three weeks ago. It  
23 was for my mother's birthday. I surprised her. Spent  
24 four days in Tennessee. Beautiful out there, if you've  
25 never gone there. When I was leaving at the airport,  
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1 of course my mother hugged me and thanked me for coming  
2 out and surprising her. I expected that. Teary-eyed  
3 parting. But then my father gave me a bear hug, and he

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4 said, that, "You keep fighting and you don't give up,  
5 and you make sure that no other family goes through  
6 what you've gone through, and you make sure no other  
7 family goes through watching their grandfather die in a  
8 hospital bed, and you make sure that you tell people  
9 that the DOE lied to him, to my grandfather, and to  
10 everyone else that worked at Oakridge. They said it  
11 was safe. They said there was no problems. But there  
12 were. And it happened. So keep fighting."

13       There's T-shirts back there, there's T-shirts  
14 back there. Buy a T-shirt, wear it. Tell people  
15 you're not going to give up, that it's not a done deal,  
16 that it's not going to be rammed down your throats  
17 because the government says it is. And don't let these  
18 workers that work at the test site come up and tell you  
19 that it's a done deal. It may be for them. They're  
20 scared. They got to go get another job. There's  
21 plenty of work in Las Vegas. They don't have to work  
22 at the test site.

23       When I leave here, I know if it comes here,  
24 I've done everything I can to stop it. Everything.  
25 Including standing up here and showing my emotions,

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1 which I don't usually do. Can you say the same thing

2 if it comes here? Thank you.